

## EXHIBIT A

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May 25, 2001

*Via Hand Delivery*

Mr. Paul Rawlins  
Compaq Computer Corporation  
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Technology Center 2100

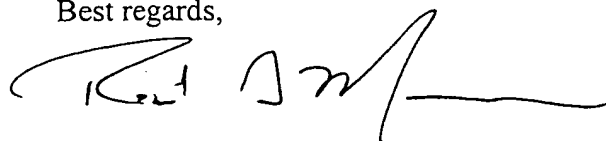
Re: U.S. Patent Application Serial No.: Unassigned  
Formal Title: Efficient Snoop Filter In A Multi-Processor-Bus  
System  
Inventors: Paul Rawlins and Phil Jones  
Group: Division: Compaq: Houston  
CPQ Ref. No.: P01-3650  
Firm Ref. No.: COMP:0239

Dear Paul:

Please find attached a first draft of the above-referenced patent application. As I mentioned on your voice mail, I would like to resolve some of the inconsistencies and fill in some of the holes in the specification before drafting the claims. Much of the description will be used in other applications, and I believe that a preliminary review of the specification will be beneficial for the present application as well as the related applications.

If at all possible, I would like to schedule a meeting on May 29<sup>th</sup> or May 30<sup>th</sup> to discuss the revisions. In the meantime, do not hesitate to call or email me with any questions or concerns.

Best regards,



Robert A. Manware

RAM/jp